

How Can I Become a Teacher in Michigan?

We are excited you are interested in becoming a Michigan teacher! In Michigan, teacher preparation is guided by statute (otherwise known as state law), state administrative rules, and teacher preparation program standards.

What are the Requirements in Michigan?

Different from some states, Michigan law and rules require that all individuals complete an [approved preparation program](#) (e.g., math, elementary, English) in order to become a teacher in Michigan. In addition to completion of an [approved preparation program](#), Michigan law requires that teachers:

- Complete [required reading courses](#) (6 semester credit hours for elementary teachers and 3 semester credit hours for secondary teachers);
- Complete a course in [first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation](#) which leads to a valid certification from the American Red Cross, American Heart Association or a comparable organization/institution approved by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE); and
- Pass the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) examination of basic skills and the appropriate content examinations. In traditional programs Michigan teacher candidates must pass the [examination of basic skills](#) prior to the student teaching assignment. Some educator preparation institutions (EPIs) require passage prior to admission to the College of Education. Passage of content examinations is required before recommendation for certification. In alternative route programs, **all** testing is required prior to entrance into the program.

Michigan Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) guide prospective educators through these requirements.

What are the Types of Preparation Program Pathways?

Currently, there are four types of teacher preparation program pathways in Michigan:

1. **Traditional:** This pathway is offered at either an undergraduate or post-baccalaureate level through an approved Michigan college or university (called an educator preparation institution). Potential candidates must meet the minimum requirements of that institution to be admitted into the teacher preparation program. The required reading coursework is offered within the program. Michigan teacher candidates must pass the examination of basic skills prior to the student teaching assignment. Some programs require passage of the basic skills examination prior to admission to the education program. Passage of MTTC content examinations is required before recommendation for certification.
2. **Accelerated:** This pathway is designed for individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree and leverages demonstrated skills to complete the program in an accelerated manner. Accelerated programs are offered through an approved Michigan college or university. The required reading coursework is typically embedded throughout program coursework. Michigan teacher candidates must pass the examination of basic skills prior to the student teaching assignment. Passage of MTTC content examinations is required before recommendation for certification.
3. **Accelerated residency:** This pathway is designed for individuals who are interested in being employed as a full-time teacher and working toward certification at the same time. Individuals interested in this pathway must have completed a bachelor's degree and have expertise and/or demonstrated skills in specific fields. The required reading coursework is embedded throughout program coursework. Michigan teacher candidates must pass the examination of basic skills prior to the student teaching assignment. Passage of MTTC content examinations is required before recommendation for certification.
4. **Alternative route:** This [alternative pathway](#) allows an individual to be employed as a full-time teacher (under the Interim Teaching Certificate) and work toward certification at the same time. Individuals interested in this pathway must meet the minimum [state requirements set forth in Michigan law](#), as well as additional program requirements (i.e., conferred bachelor's degree, GPA of 3.0 or higher, passage of the basic skills and MTTC content tests, and any provider specific program requirements).

Please note that career and technical education classification of instructional programs (CIPs), early childhood and special education endorsements are not available through this pathway.

5. **Career and Technical Education (CTE):** Each pathway, program and provider is different. Therefore, it is best to reach out directly to the provider for additional information. Please visit the MDE's [public directory](#) to search Michigan approved preparation providers and program types (e.g., math, English, elementary). Employers have immediate placement options for employing career changers utilizing the [authorizations](#) while a program is being completed.

What Else Should I Consider in Selecting a Program?

Each year, the MDE is required by federal law to identify "at risk" and "low performing" EPIs. In order to provide information about the quality of educator preparation programs in Michigan, the MDE prepares the "Educator Preparation Institution Performance Score", which assesses the institution using data in a number of areas such as MTTC passage rates, survey results from teacher candidates and supervisors, and effectiveness ratings of classroom teachers prepared by the institution. The complete EPI Performance Score is available at the [Educator Services website](#).

Educators who seek out or complete preparation at institutions or universities [outside the state of Michigan](#) (regardless of whether it is online or face-to-face) must meet the requirements of that state. The MDE does not have the authority to approve out-of-state educator preparation programs prior to completion. Upon completion of the preparation program and eligibility for the out-of-state certificate or license, educators may seek an evaluation under the [National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification](#) reciprocal agreement held between states.

Application for initial certification based upon an in-state preparation program or evaluation of an out-of-state preparation program must be submitted using the [Michigan Online Educator Certification System](#).